Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02670 231506Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 TRSE-00

OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01

SSO-00 /151 W
---------- 113331
P 231121Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2022
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WARSAW PCEORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2670

E.O. 11652:VHC DS

TAGS: MARR, AFIN, VS, HU
SUBJECT: GOH NOTICE OF PLANS RE ICCS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

1. SUMMARY: GOH STATE SECY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARJAI CALLED IN AMB LATE SEPT 20 TO TELL HIM GOH CONSIDRED ICCS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES UNTENABLE AND WAS CONSIDERING JOINTLY WITH OTHER THREE MEMBERS EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF INSPECTION TEAMS FROM ALL SITES. MARJAI ALSO SAID THAT GOH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN FINANCIAL COSTS OF ICCS PARTICIPATION WITH ALL PERSONNEL IN SAIGON FOR VERY LONG. END SUMMARY.

2. STATE SECY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARJAI CALLED IN AMBASSADOR SEPT 20 TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON LATEST GOH VIEWS ON ICCS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. MARJAI BEGAN REPEATING PREVIOUSLY STATED GOH POSITION THAT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES
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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 02670 231506Z

INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FULFILL FOR HUNGARIAN SIDE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

BECAUSE THEY EXCEED THOSE ACCEPTED AT BEGINNING AND SITUATION WORSENING. NOW, MARJAI SAID, SERVICES SUCH AS WATER AND LIGHTS HAVE CEASED AT REGIONAL SITES AND LOCAL TEAMS "CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT THEM." AND GOH ABSOLUTELY UNWILLING TO ASSUME THIS ADDITIONAL COST. THIS HAS CREATED COMPLETELY NEW SITUATION, MARJAI CONTINUED, IN WHICH ICCS MAY MAKE ITS FIRST UNANIMOUS DECISION IN A LONG TIME AND RECALL ALL PERSONNEL TO SAIGON.

3. THIS NEW SITUATION, MARJAI SAID, WILL FURTHER REDUCE EFFECTIVENESS OF ICCS, ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBILITY OF FUNCTIONING, AND AT SAME TIME MAKE HEADQUARTERS SITUATION IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE PERSONNEL OF LOCAL INSPECTION TEAMS CANNOT BE MAINTAINED IN SAIGON FMA MORE THAN FEW DAYS. SAIGON SITUATION IS EQUALLY SERIOUS, "NO GASOLINE AVAILABLE SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER," AND SUCH SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

CANNOT BE SUSTAINED. HE ADDED "THE SITUATION IS THE SAME FOR THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS TOO, WHETHER THEY SAY SO OR NOT AND ALL FOUR ARE LIKELY TO AGREE ON THIS SUBJECT. BUT EVEN IF WE ARE THE ONLY ONES, BECAUSE AMONG THE FOUR WE ARE THE POOREST, WE IN ANY EVENT CANNOT CONTINUE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES."

4. MARJAI EMPHASIZED THAT GOH WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO AVOID PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS STEMMING FROM THIS ISSUE WHICH HE SAW AS SEPARATE FROM THE OTHERS. HE SUGGESTED THAT SINCE ICCS HAS NO RIGHTS OR OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO IT THAT USG AND OTHER THREE PARIS SIGNATORIES URGENTLY SEEK SOLUTION TO THIS QUESTION IF THEY WISH ICCS TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING.

5. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER GOH IS MAKING SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO PRG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE. MARJAI REPLIED "YES OF COURSE." AMBASSADOR THEN SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN SAIGON WITH THE POLISH CHAIRMAN OF ICCS. SINCE INDICATIONS WERE THAT ALL FOUR ICCS MEMBERS CONCERNED OVER DIFFICULTIES, AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF UNILATERAL GOH WITHDRAWAL FROM ANY LOCAL INSPECTION SITES.
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PAGE 03 BUDAPE 02670 231506Z

MARJAI REPLIED HE SUPPOSED THERE WOULD BE UNIFIED ACTION BUT THAT WOULD ONLY MAKE IT THAT MUCH WORSE.

6. AMBASSADOR THEN STATED THAT USG POSITION WAS ONE OF ENCOURAGING NOT ONLY THAT LOCAL TEAMS STAY AT INSPECTION SITES BUT THAT THEY RETURN TO THOSE PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED. IN ANY EVENT, HE URGED GOH NOT TO USE FINANCIAL SITUATION AS EXCUSE FOR FURTHER UNILATERAL WITHDRAWALS.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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MARJAI SAID THAT WHILE ALL FOUR MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED
AND LIKELY TO ACT TOGETHER HE COULD NOT PROMISE THAT
LACKING SUCH UNANIMITY GOH WILL CARRY ON INDEFINITELY
IN LIGHT OF STEADILY GROWING HARD CURRENCY COSTS BEYOND
THAT TWO PERCENT OF COSTS WHICH HUNGARY RELUCTANTLY
ACCEPTED AS ITS
SHARE AT THE BEGINNING.

7. AMBASSADOR THEN TOLD MARJAI THAT U.S. CONGRESS WAS
NOW STUDYING REQUEST VICESUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
BUT WHILE HOPEFUL THAT THIS WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS IT
WAS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT USG WAS BEING ASKED TO
CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN ITS SHARE AND THAT THE REAL PROBLEM
IS NOT THE U.S. OR GVN SIDE BUT PRG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE
SIDE. MARJAI SAID THAT THIS WAS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF
SIGNATORIES, THAT GOH DID NOT MAKE THE PARIS AGREEMENTS
AND DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN DECISION ON HOW TO FINANCE
ICCS.

8. AMBASSADOR PROMISED MARJAI TO GET STATUS REPORT OF
APPROPRIATION REQUEST IN CONGRESS AND ADVISE HIM ASAP
WHAT PROSPECTS WERE. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR ADDED, EVEN IF
ADDITIONAL FUNDS APPROVED THUS SUBSTANTIALLY ALLEVIATING
SITUATION IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, LONG RUN SOLUTION REQUIRED
OTHER SIDE TO ALSO MAKE ITS SHARE OF PAYMENTS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT GUIDANCE ASAP ON
STATUS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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